

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 2, 4, 6 and 10 have been amended. Claims 1-2, 4-10 and 12-15 are pending and under consideration.

REJECTIONS under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 stand rejected as being obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Meyer in view of Khatri. Claims 5 and 6 stand rejected as being obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Meyer in view of Khatri in further view of Burgess. Claims 13-15 stand rejected as being obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Burgess in view of Khatri.

The present application is a continuation of PCT/JP01/00175 and thus has an effective filing date of January 12, 2001. Khatri, on the other hand, has an apparent earliest publication date of September 19, 2002 with a filing date of January 25, 2001 and therefore is not a valid prior art reference.

A *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been made and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

SUMMARY

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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